

A
TRUE *and* EXACT
ACCOUNT
OF THE
LIVES
OF

EDWARD BURNWORTH alias FRA-
SIER, WILLIAM BLEWITT,
THOMAS BERRY, and EMA-
NUEL DICKENSON, &c.

Giving an impartial Account of their Births, Pa-
rantage, Education, Conversation, Marriages,
&c. With a true Relation of the several Rob-
beries committed by them.

TOGETHER

With the particular Manner of their murdering
Thomas Ball; and the Reasons and Motives that
induc'd them thereto.

AND

The Particulars of their several Apprehensions for the
same. Their Behaviour during their Confinement,
both before and after Sentence of Condemnation, and
at the Place of Execution.

As the same was taken from their own Mouths, and the
information of their Relations, Friends and Confede-
rates.

N O N D O N;

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EW or none of the several *Male-*
factors, who have suffer'd of late
Years, have arriv'd at such a height
of Impiety as those Persons we are
now Writing of. The natural Com-
passion we generally shew even to those Criminals
where their Crimes will admit of any Extenu-
ation, cannot plead in Favour of these un-
happy Wretches; their audacious Villanies
having render'd them the Objects of our Re-
sentment, and the national Justice, put a Pe-
riod to the Lives of those, who whilst living
struck

struck a Terror into the Hearts of every honest Man, and bad Defiance to the Legislative Power; not being content with simple Felonies, Burglaries, or those more daring Attempts they frequently committed upon innocent Persons, not only in the By-paths, Roads, and Fields, but in the more public Streets and Parts of the Town, both by Day and Night, but perpetrated their Villanies, by murdering those who any way obstructed or attempted to impeach their Proceedings; and by forming themselves into large Companies or Societies; out-brav'd Justice, and set the Ministers thereof at Defiance; till the Government itself was oblig'd to exert its Authority, and by suitable Rewards and Encouragement endeavour'd the bringing such profligate Wretches to condign Punishment.

EDWARD Burnworth, alias *Frasier*, was descended of mean but honest Parentage; his Father being by Trade a *Painter*; but dying whilst he was young, he was the sooner expos'd to the Temptations of wicked Persons; his Mother, who is pretty well advanc'd in Years, lives at present in the *Park*, in *South-mark*, in a very mean State and Condition. His Parents put him Apprentice to a *Buckle-maker*, in *Grub-street*, with whom he serv'd his Apprenticeship; but falling into ill Company he was allured and persuaded to Accompany them; and in short time his Profession grew burthensome to him, and he affected a lazy idle Disposition,

position, and associated himself amongst a Crew of *Pick-pockets*, *Thieves*, &c. where he became acquainted with *William Blewitt*, *Emanuel Dickenson*, *Thomas Berry*, *John Legee*, *William Margeram*, *John Higgs*, *John Wilson*, *John Mason*, *Thomas Menkins*, ——— *Gillingham*, *John Barten*, *William Swift*, and many others.

BEING enter'd into this Society, he assumed the Name of *Frasier*, or rather had it confer'd on him before, upon this Occasion. He being one who constantly idled away his time, even in his Prenticeship, at the Ring in *More-Fields*, kept by one *Frasier*, for Cudgel-Playing, Wrestling, &c. and being very Active at that Exercise, the Title of young *Frasier* was confer'd upon him, which he so well seem'd to approve of, that he rather chose to go by that Name than by that of *Burnworth*.

BEING enter'd into this Society, about eight Years since, he follow'd his new Employment very dilligently, in picking Pockets for *Handkerchiefs*, *Snuff-Boxes*, &c. then advanc'd a Step higher in the Mistry of *Thieving*, to snatching Womens Pockets, *Swords*, &c. The usual Places of exercising this Trade, was from the *Royal-Exchange*, along *Cheapside*, *St. Paul's Churchyard*, *Fleet-street*, and the *Strand*, up to *Charing-Cross*, without attempting any thing farther, till being taken upon Suspicion for picking Pockets, he was committed to *New-Prison*; but had not been long in that place

place e'er he found means to make his Escape.

BEING thus at large, the Danger he had been lately in did not deter him from following his old vicious Courses; and the Compliments he met from his old Comrades, upon his Escape, embolden'd and encourag'd him to renew his Acquaintance with them; and not judging it safe to trust himself in the power of his Adversaries, he endeavour'd to avoid being seen in the Day-time, unless in the Company of a sufficient Number of his Confederates, but then took up a new Trade of Pading it in the Fields, with some of his Companions, *to wit, Barton, Margaram, Berry, Blewitt, and Dickenson.*

HOWEVER, one Night, venturing into the *Old Baily*, he went privately into a Public House; and being inform'd that some Person belonging to the late infamously Famous *Jonathan Wild*, had been in Quest of him for some Days past, and understanding that he was then alone in a back Room, he boldly enter'd in with a Pistol ready charg'd in his Hand; and after expostulating the Case with him, call'd for a Glas of Brandy, and throwing some Gunpowder into it, he compel'd him on his Knees to drink the same; and with many Imprecations to swear he would never touch or meddle with him directly or indirectly, or give any manner of Information against him; after which he retired, leaving him to
recover

recover himself from the Terror he was under as well as he could.

THAT Exploit being perform'd in this Manner, he retir'd himself for Safety amongst his before-named Confederates, where he diverted them with the Trick he had put upon *Jonathan's* Foreman in Ordinary, protesting if it had been his late Master himself he should not have fared one Jot better.

IN this Method he pass'd away the time for some Weeks, committing Robberies on the High-Roads, and in the Foot-Paths, in the Day-time, and in the Evenings; and in the Nights and Mornings ventur'd into the Town to break open Houses and Shops; at which he grew so dexterous that he was an equal Proficient with the late *Jack Sheppard*.

THE Day before the Murder, hereafter mentioned, was committed on the Body of *Thomas Ball*, this same *Burnworth*, in Company with *John Barton*, who was convicted for another Burglary the last Sessions, propos'd to go and break open the House of an old Justice of the Peace in *Clerkenwell*, and pitch'd upon that House rather than any other, not in Expectation of getting a greater Booty thereby, but in prejudice to him, because he had been before committed by him.

ACCORDINGLY the Time being pitch'd upon, about twelve the same Night, or one in the Morning, they began their Enterprize, and executed it as successfully; and carry'd off divers Things of Value, and as they then believ'd, a considerable

considerable Quantity of Plate, and made their Retreat up into the Fields above *Islington*, and from thence to *Copenhagen House*, where they spent the greatest part of the following Day.

HERE they began a Partition of the Booty they had got; but when they came to a Survey of the Plate, *Burnworth* perceiv'd it to be only Brass silver'd, and damn'd it as a thing of no Value, would have thrown it away; *Barton* oppos'd it, and would have it kept; here they differ'd; and in the interim came *Blewit*, *Berry*, *Dickenson*, *Higgs*, *Wilson*, *Legee*, and *Margaram*, and joyn'd their Company; at last *Burnworth* and *Barton* agreed to Toss up at whose disposal the silver'd Ware should be; they toss'd up accordingly, and it fell to *Burnworth* to dispose thereof as he thought fit, who immediately carry'd it to the New-River Side, and threw it in there, wishing he had had the old Justice himself there he should then have shar'd the same Fate.

BEING now got into the Fields, they wandred up and down for some time, not in Expectation of any Booty, but in order to pass the time away, they not being then in any want of Money, not caring to venture into the Town till towards the Evening, excepting *Barton* only, who quitting their Company, retir'd homewards.

As they were here Amusing themselves, came a Confederate of theirs from *Chick-Lane*, who us'd to assist 'em in the disposing of their stolen Goods, and brought 'em Word, that
several

several Constables had been in the Neighbourhood upon the search for People of their Profession, and bad 'em be Cautious how they appear'd thereabouts.

THIS intimation oblig'd 'em to consult their Safety; and no way was thought more Expedient than to keep in a Body, where a small Force would not venture to attack 'em; they having three or four Pistols each; and each loaded with a Brace of Balls, besides short Daggers hid privately under their Cloaths.

IN this Manner they spent the Afternoon, till about the Dusk of the Evening; when promising to stand by and assist each other, in Case of Necessity or Danger; they resolv'd to venture into the Town; and accordingly, coming through *Turnmill-street*, they, there accidentally, met the Keeper of *New-Prison*; from whence, about six Weeks before, *Burnworth* broke out; he seeing *Burnworth* on the other side of the way, call'd to him, and desired to speak to him; *Burnworth* standing a little time in Suspence; the Keeper seeing so many of his Companions about him, told him, he need not be under any Apprehension, he only desired to speak two or three Words, and would not molest him; to which *Burnworth* reply'd with an Oath, he was not afraid of him; that he knew how to defend himself; and that 'twas not in his Power to do him any Injury; and concealing a Pistol in his Hand, step'd cross the Way to him, whilst his other seven Companions stood still waiting for him;

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but

but being all known, or at least suspected as to the Business they follow'd, by the Neighbourhood, the People began to gather in Crowds about them, which they seeing, called to *Burnworth* to come away; who took a short formal Leave of his quondam Keeper, and joyn'd his Companions; who finding the Mob increasing upon them, thought it most advisable to retreat to the Fields, which they did in a close Body; but to deter the Populace from following them farther, they fac'd about, and presenting their Pistols, swore they would fire upon any Person who should dare to set one Foot farther in pursuit of them, upon which they gave back, and suffer'd 'em to retreat in Safety to the Fields.

HERE they again consulted what Course they should steer, and thought it most advisable to enter another Quarter of the Town, and then go directly cross the Water; which Advice being approv'd of, they made directly for the Water-Side; and taking Boat at *Black-Fryers*, cross'd over to the Bank-side, and from thence resolv'd to go to the Musick-House, expecting there to meet some other of their Companions.

AFTER having been there some time, they quitted that Place, and walked together into *St. George's-Fields*, where they began another Consultation how to preserve themselves, and in what manner they should spend the Evening.

'Twas

'T W A S here *Edward Burnworth* acquainted his Companions of the danger of their Apprehension ; and that as he believ'd from *Thomas Ball*, who kept a *Geneva-Shop* in the *Mint*, who having been intimately acquainted with the Persons of divers of them, and others of their Confederates, and knew their Secrets ; was attempting to act the part of *Jonathan Wild*, and betray his old Friends and Acquaintance for the sake of a little Money into the Hands of the Hangman ; and adding, 'twas but three or four Nights before, that he the said *Ball* had attempted to take him, and had done it, had he not made his Escape from him by thrusting a Pistol in his Face, and swearing he would shoot him directly if he offer'd to touch him ; telling them, if they would all stand by him and assist him, he would go immediately and shoot the said *Ball* through the Head.

T H I S bloody Proposal, as soon as offer'd by *Burnworth*, was greedily swallow'd by all the rest, except *Higgs*, who seeming to disapprove thereof, so exasperated the others, that they accused him of Pusillanimity and Cowardise ; and *Burnworth* immediately advanced at the Head of his Companions, except *Higgs*, who in the Dark slip'd away.

B E I N G coming to *Ball's* House, they enquir'd of his Wife for him, she reply'd, he was at the next Door, a Publick-House, and that she would step and call him, and went accordingly ; *Burnworth* immediately follow'd her,

and meeting *Ball* at the Door, took him fast by the Collar, and dragg'd him into his own House, began to Expostulate with him the Reason why he had attempted to take him, and how ungenerous it was for him to seek to betray his old Friends and Acquaintance.

BALL apprehending their mischeivous Intentions, address'd him'self to *Blewitt*, and beg'd of him to be an Intercessor for him, and that they would not murder him; but *Purnworth*, with an Oath, reply'd, he would put it out of the Power of *Ball* ever to do him any farther Injury; that he should never get a Penny by betraying him; and thereupon immediately shot him.

HAVING thus done, they all went out of Doors again, and that the Neighbourhood might suppose the firing the Pistol to have been done without any ill Intention, and only to discharge the same; *Blewitt* fired another in the Street, over the Tops of the Houses, saying aloud, they were got safe into Town, and there was no danger of meeting with any Rogues there. *Ball* attempted to get as far as the Door, but in vain, for he drop'd immediately, and died in a few Minutes afterwards.

HAVING thus executed their barbarous Design, they went down from *Ball's* House, directly towards the *Faulcon*, intending to cross the Water back again; by the way they accidentally met with *Higgs*, who was making to the Water-side likewise; him they fell upon, and

and rated for a pusilanimous cowardly Dog, (as *Burnworth* call'd him) that would desert them in an Affair of such Consequence; and then question'd whether *Higgs* himself would not betray them; and *Burnworth* propos'd it to the Company to shoot their old Comrade *Higgs*, because he had deserted them in their late Expedition; which 'tis believed, in the Humour *Burnworth* was then in, he would have done, had not *Margaram* interpos'd and pleaded for the sparing his Life.

FROM the *Faulcon* Stairs they cross'd the Water to *Pig Stairs*; and there consulting how to spend the Evening, they resolv'd to go to the *Boars Head* Tavern in *Smithfield*, as not being there known; and being at a distance from the Water-side, in case any pursuit should be made after them on account of the Murder by them committed; at which Place they continued till near ten of the Clock, when they separated themselves into Parties for that Night, viz. one Party towards the *Royal Exchange*, a second to *St. Paul's Church-yard*, and the third for *Temple-Bar*, in pursuit of their old Trade of *Diving*.

THIS Murder made them more cautious of appearing in Publick; and *Blewitt*, *Berry*, and *Dickenson*, soon after set out for *Harwich*, and went over in the Packet-Boat from thence for *Helvoetsluice*.

HIGGS, some little time afterwards, to prevent been discover'd, Ship'd himself on Board the *Monmouth* at *Spithead*; notwithstanding

standing which, he was discover'd in this Manner. His Brother here in Town having wrote a Letter to him, gave it to a Ship's Mate to carry with him to *Spithead*; he accidentally falling into Company with one *Artbur*, a Watchman, belonging to *St. Sepulchre's* Parish; he seeing the Letter, and knowing *Higgs* to have been a Companion of *Burnworth's*, &c. went and acquainted Mr. *De la Fay* therewith; whereupon two Messengers and the said Watchman were sent to *Spithead* to fetch up the said *Higgs*, which they did accordingly.

WILSON forsook his Confederates, and Absconded, and has not been since heard of.

BURNWORTH, with others of his Companions, had the Audacity, not only to continue in and about the Town, daily infesting the Roads and Fields with Robberies, but had likewise the unparalel'd Assurance to attack the Earl of *Harborough* in his Chair, in *Piccadilly*; but the Chairmen with their Poles knock'd one of his Companions down, and the Earl coming out of the Chair with his drawn Sword, they thought fit to march off, *Burnworth* himself having first shot one of the Chairmen in the Shoulder, whereby they prevented the Chairmen pursuing them, and had the opportunity of bringing off their Companion, who had been knock'd down, he having during the Fray recover'd himself.

THESE audacious Villanies occasion'd his Majesty to put out a Proclamation for the apprehending

prehending the said *Burnworth*, *Blewit*, &c. it being rightly imagined that those who durst attempt to perpetrate such uncommon Robberies and Villanies could be no other than the Persons who had committed the aforesaid Murder or their Confederates.

W H E N the Proclamation was publish'd, a Gentleman, who had bought one of them, going into an Alehouse in *White-Cross-street*, took the Proclamation out of his Pocket and read it to the Company; amongst whom was *Margoram*, tho' no body there knew him. He immediately conjectured some or other of his Companions, for the sake of the Reward and the hopes of a Pardon, would turn Evidence against the rest, and therefore resolv'd to embrace the Opportunity; but not daring to go home, he got out into the Fields, and loiter'd about until the Evening; then came back to *Smithfield*, and going to a Constable in the Neighbourhood, he told him, that being one of the Persons concern'd in the Murder of *Thomas Ball*, mention'd in the Proclamation of that Day; he desired to put himself under his Protection, that he might be intituled to the Benefit of a Pardon, and the Reward therein specify'd; and that he might be carried before the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, where he would make a Discovery of the rest of his Accomplices.

T H E Constable accordingly taking him into Custody, he was that Night confin'd in *Wood-street-Comptor*, the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor

Mayor not having opportunity then to examine him; the next Morning he was order'd to be brought before his Lordship, in order to his Examination; where being interrogated, he made a full Confession of all the aforesaid Particulars, and gave Information where *Legee* might be met with; who, according to the Direction given by *Marjoram*, was apprehended in *White-Cross-street*; and after a long Examination was committed to *Newgate*.

DURING this Transaction, the account of *Marjoram's* having surrender'd himself was spread over the Town, and several of his old Companions, thinking themselves in danger, forsook their old Habitations; and *John Barton* particularly, who waited near *Gold-Smiths-Hall*, till he should be carry'd before the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor; and seeing him coming along with the Constable, step'd up towards him with a Pistol in his Hand, cry'd, *D—mn you, I'll shoot you*; and immediately fired at him.

MARJORAM seeing him come towards him, and hearing the Words, popp'd down his Head just as *Barton* fired at him, and thereby prevented the effects of the Ball which only graz'd upon his Back; *Barton* made his Escape, the Action being so sudden that no Body could recover themselves from the Surprize before he got off.

'TIS believ'd *Barton* had receiv'd the Information of *Marjoram's* having surrendered himself from their Friend in *Chick-Lane*, who
before

before had gave them Notice of the danger of their being apprehended in *Islington* Fields the Afternoon before *Ball* was murder'd, and for which piece of Intelligence *Marjoram* made him a present of about 60 or 70 pair of Stockings they had got out of a *Hofier's* Shop they had broke open.

THUS *Blewet*, *Berry* and *Dickenson*, being gone for *Holland*, *Higgs* on Shipboard, *Wilson* absconded, *Legee* in *Newgate*, and *Marjoram* having surrendered himself, there now remained only *Burnworth* in Town, and at liberty, of the Eight Persons mention'd in the Proclamation, and great Endeavours were used to take him but the same proved ineffectual.

NOTWITHSTANDING which he was so audacious as still to persist in the like wicked Actions, and as himself acknowledg'd, broke open the House of Mr. *Beesly*, a *Distiller*, in *Clare-Market*, from whence he took divers Notes, to the amount of several hundred Pounds, several Pieces of Plate and other Goods, part whereof he afterwards threw away, believing it to be only white Mettal, which *Jones* picking up, was afterwards apprehended, convicted, and executed for; but *Burnworth* deny'd that *Jones* was any ways privy to the same, or that he ever saw or had any Knowledge of him before the time of his being put into the Condemn'd Hold, after his conviction for the said Robbery.

ALTHO' *Burnworth* knew the Proclamation was out, with a Reward of 300 l. for the apprehending

prehending him, that several of his Companions were fled, and others in Hold, he seem'd to defy all attempts to take him, and had the audacity one Morning to go into a Publick House near *Halborn Bridge*, where he was known, and sitting down by the Door, with a Pistol ready charg'd in his Hand, call'd for a Pint of Drink, which being brought him he drank off, and throwing down three Half-pence for the same, went off without any farther concern.

THE frequent Accounts, and repeated Informations the Government receiv'd of his daring and defying the Power of the Peace Officers to take him, oblig'd the Magistrates to use their utmost Efforts to apprehend him; and he then lodging with the Wife and Sister of *Kitt Leonard*, another of their Companions, who had been for some time a Prisoner in the new Goal for the County of *Surry*; *Kitt Leonard* believ'd he could not do the Nation a better piece of Service than to procure him to be apprehended, and it would likewise be a means of recommending himself to the Mercy of the Government; accordingly he ordered his Wife to apply herself to some of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace to acquaint them of his Intention, which she doing, the Proposition was readily approv'd of, a sufficient Force appointed to assist in the seizing of him, and all Matters rightly concerted for such an Enterprize; accordingly Six Persons being appointed for this Design, they were planted at an adjoining

adjoyning Alehouse, where *Kate*, the Wife of *Kitt Leonard*, was to give them the Signal.

ABOUT Six of the Clock in the Evening on *Sbrove Tuesday*, *Kate Leonard* and her Sister, and *Burnworth*, being all together (it not being late enough for him to go out upon his Nightly Enterprizes) *Kate Leonard* propos'd to fry some Pancakes for Supper, which the other two approved of; accordingly her Sister set about them; *Burnworth* had put off his Surtout Coat, in the Pocket and Lining whereof he had several Pistols; there was a little back Door to the House, which *Burnworth* usually kept upon the Latch only, in order to make his Escape if he should be surpriz'd, or discovered to be in that House; this Door *Kate Leonard* privately bolted unperceiv'd by *Burnworth*, and whilst her Sister was frying the Pancakes *Kate* went to the Alehouse for a Pot of Drink, when having given the Men who were waiting for him the Signal she return'd, and entering the House pretending to lock the Door, but designedly miss'd the Staple; the Door being thus upon the jar only, as she gave the Drink to *Burnworth*, the Six Persons rushed suddenly into the Room; *Burnworth* hearing the Noise, and fearing the Surprize, jump'd up thinking to have gain'd the back Door; but not knowing the same to be bolted they were upon him before he could get it open, and holding his Arms behind him, one of them ty'd them, whilst another, to intimidate him, fired a Pistol over his Head; having thus secured him, they immediately

mediately carried him before a Justice of the Peace, who after a long Examination committed him to *Newgate*.

NOTWITHSTANDING his Confinement in that Place, he was still at work by his Emissaries, as well as by himself; for they supposing *Kate Leonard* to have been the chief Projector and Cause of his being apprehended, attempted to murder her, by firing a Pistol at her one Night as she was going in at her own Door; who the Person was that did it could not be discovered, but several Attempts of the like Nature caused the Justices to order a sufficient Watch to attend the House every Night, as well to prevent the execution of such a bloody Design, as to bring the Authors and Abettors thereof to condign Punishment.

BURNWORTH being at last got into *Newgate*, it was judg'd most adviseable to confine him in the Condemn'd Hold, as a Place of the greatest Security; here he continued from the Time of his Commitment to the 13th of *March* last, when Seven other Criminals under Sentence of Death being confin'd along with him, he concerted an Escape in the following Manner.

HAVING on the *Sunday* in the Evening procured an iron Crow to be handed in unto him, thro' the little Hole made for the admittance of Light into the Condemn'd Hold, he spirited up the other Prisoners to attempt an Escape, and they began to put their Design in execution as soon as the Goal was lock'd up,
that

that they were under no farther apprehension of being visited by the Keepers till the next Morning, and whilst some of them sung Psalms, the others were employed in breaking down the Wall by the assistance of the iron Crow, and pull'd out Stones to the amount of about Two Cart Loads, which as they got them down they pil'd up against the Door, thereby barracading up the same, so that in the Morning when the Keepers came for the Five Malefactors who were to die that Day they could not get in, but they maintain'd the same until about Two a-Clock in the Afternoon, nor could the Keepers get admission at last, until the Prisoners themselves had removed the Stones from the Door.

Two things here conspir'd to shew their imprudent Management of this Attempt; first, notwithstanding Five of them were to die the next Day, yet Four of them were over Night fuddled, and thereby incapable of assisting the others; secondly, they had not taken care to provide Candles sufficient to serve them for more than two Hours, after which they were oblig'd to lie still for want of Light to work by.

THIS attempt was judg'd to be *Burnworth's* Contrivance, and he was punish'd accordingly, and remov'd into another Apartment call'd the Bilboa Room, additional Irons clap'd upon him, and left in a condition to lament his ill-spent Hours by himself.

BUT as he was continually meditating the Means of his Escape by some Contrivance or other, he procured Files, Saws, &c. with which
Implements

Implements he saw'd off his Irons, then broke thro' the Wall of the Bilboa Room into the Women's Apartment, and with his Saws fell to work upon the iron Bars, in the Windows of which there are three tire, one within another, the first of which he soon cut quite out, and was working upon the others, when one of the Women, to ingratiate herself with the Keepers, discover'd his attempt, upon which he was taken from his Work, brought back to the Condemn'd Hold, and there chain'd down to the Floor, where we shall leave him to his Repose whilst we make some little enquiry after his Companions.

WILLIAM Blewitt was born in the Parish of *St. Giles's, Cripplegate*; his Father was a Porter, and his Mother sells *Herbs, Greens, &c.* in the said Parish, where she is yet living. His Parents were of very mean Circumstances, and he at the Charge of the Parish, when of Years, capable, bound an Apprentice to a *Perfumer of Gloves*: But as his Education had been very mean, his Temper was as sordid (tho' ambitious of making an Appearance in the World) that he would stick at nothing to attain it, pursuing the old Miser's Advice to a tittle, *My Son get Money, &c.* He soon became acquainted with a Crew of profligate Wretches, by whose Advice he ran into all Extreams of Wickedness; as picking Pockets, private Stealing, Shoplifting, &c. which he practised successfully for many Years, till about two Years since he happen'd to be catch'd in
the

the Fact, was sent to *Newgate*, and convicted for Transportation, when with divers others of the same Profession both Males and Females, he was ship'd off for the Plantations; but a Design having been form'd by the other Criminals to make their Escapes (to which purpose their Friends had supplied 'em with Saws, Files, &c. to cut of their Irons with which were conceal'd in Cakes of Gingerbread) he being admitted into the Secret resolv'd to purchase his own Liberty if possible at the Expence of his Companions in Affliction, and acquainting the Captain of the Vessel of the Intention of the Gentry on Board; he caus'd them to be search'd, and found the Saws, Files, &c. conceal'd according to the Information he had given him. Upon this Discovery the Captain set a strong Watch over the Actions of his Passengers; and having punish'd the most Culpable, gave *Blewitt* his Liberty for his good Services. *Blewitt* having once more set his Foot on Shore, posted up to *London*; where in concert with his old Friends, he set up the same Trade as formerly; but had not long continued it before some body laid Hands upon him again, and he was once more committed to his old Mansion House at *Newgate*; and being try'd for returning from Transportation, he was convicted; but pleading the good Service he had before done in serving the Nation, and preventing the Escapes of so many profligate Wretches: Upon this the Court thought fit to respite the Execution until the
 Captain

Captain return'd back to *England*; and upon his Examination finding it to be so, chang'd his Sentence into Transportation only, and gave him the liberty of transporting himself to any foreign Part.

HAVING once more regain'd his Liberty, he instead of transporting himself pursuant to his Sentence, pursued his old Courses, and associated himself with the lower Class of *Pick-Pockets, Snatchers of Hats, Wigs, Swords, &c.* till he joyn'd *Burnworth* and his Companions.

HE married several Wives during his Acquaintance with his Companions before mentioned: The first of which is believed to have been an honest and modest Woman, but his ill Course of Life is suppos'd to have drove her to such Extremities as might induce her to take some indirect Methods to support herself, but not in his way Business; for we do not find she was ever guilty of following that Practice. This was the same Person who came to *Newgate* the Day before they set out for *Kingston* to see him, and died in the Lodge.

HE had other Wives besides her; one of them, upon his first Transportation, whilst he was on Ship-board, married *Emanuel Dickenson*, and is yet living.

BEING acquainted with *Burnworth*, and meeting him (as we have before mentioned in the Life of *Burnworth*,) in the Fields, near *Islington*, he accompany'd 'em over the Water, and was one of the Accomplices in the Murder of *Ball*, before mention'd; but after their
having

having perpetrated that barbarous Action, he went over in the Packet for *Holland* (being well acquainted there;) at which Place he continued for some time before he was discover'd; not but that he was apprehensive Endeavours would have been us'd to have had him brought over again to *London*, had the Government been appris'd of their being there; and they frequently, as themselves acknowledg'd, look'd over the *English* News-Papers in the Coffee-Houses at *Rotterdam*, in order to see if any Advertisement, Reward, or Proclamation, should be publish'd in relation to the said Murder, intending if they had discover'd any thing of that nature, to have left the Country immediately.

BUT Providence order'd it so, that neither he nor his Comrades saw or heard a Word of the same, tho' our *English* News-Papers are there common as they are here. But when the Proclamation came to the Hands of the Honourable Mr. *Finch*, the *British* Resident at the *Hague*, he enquir'd of several *English* Gentlemen whether any such Persons, as describ'd in the Proclamation, had been seen in *Rotterdam*; and understanding there had, he immediately dispatch'd a Messenger to enquire out the Truth thereof; who soon return'd with Advice, that they were then at the *Hamburg* Arms upon the *Boomkeys*, in *Rotterdam*. Upon which Mr. *Finch* immediately applied to the *States-General* at the *Hague*; and by their Direction, to the Lords of *Rotterdam* obtain'd an Order for

the securing of them any where within the Province.

THE Messenger, coming by Virtue of the said Order, and with the Assistance of the *Schoots-Denairs*, or Sheriffs Officers, seized *Blewitt* at the *Hamburg Arms* aforesaid; his Companions *Dickenson* and *Berry* were just before gone on Ship-board, and sail'd away from *Rotterdam*, in order to leave *Holland*.

BLEWITT was immediately carry'd away to the *Stadthouse-Prison* in *Rotterdam*, and the Officers went in pursuit of his Companions to the *Brill*, where the Vessel not being clear'd out they seiz'd them both, and brought them back to *Rotterdam*; where they were very strongly hand-cuff'd, iron'd, and confin'd in the *Stadthouse* with their Friend *Blewitt*, where we will leave them for a little time.

EMANUEL Dickenson was born of very good Parentage, but being Wild and Headstrong in his Youth, became ungovernable; his Father also dying whilst he was very young gave him greater Liberty to follow those Courses his vicious Inclinations led him to; and his Mother, not having wherewith to support, at such extravagant Rates, him, his Brother, and three Sisters, was obliged to submit to their taking such Courses, as too frequently end in Ruin and Misery; one of his Sisters being at this present time in *Wood street Compter*, the others dispers'd up and down in different Parts. He began very early to keep loose

loose, vicious, and profligate Company, by whom he was induc'd to take up the Trade of picking Pockets, &c. for about eight Years past. He was once convicted for snatching a Gentleman's Hat off of his Head in the *Strand*; for which Fact he should have been transported; but whilst he lay under Conviction for this Crime, his Mother, by proper Application, procured a free Pardon for him, upon an Allegation that he was the Son of a Gentleman, who had had a considerable Post in the Army; which appearing to be true, he had a Pardon granted him accordingly. But this Affliction could not deter this young Spark from pursuing his vicious Courses, as formerly. He soon return'd (like a Sow to the Mire) to his old Courses, and continued to herd with such Acquaintance as he had pick'd up in *Newgate*, during his Confinement there; by which means he became acquainted with *Burnworth*, *Blewitt*, &c.

WITH these he associated himself, until the late unhappy Murder of *Ball*; wherein he having been an Actor, thought it most advisable to forsake his Native Country, and fly for Refuge to *Holland*, expecting to be there protected from the Hand of Justice.

BLEWITT, *Berry*, and himself continued in *Rotterdam* for about a Month before they were apprehended, and were leaving *Holland* (being got on Board an outward Bound Vessel at the *Brill*) when the Officers came to apprehend them.

THIS same *Dickenson* married one of *Blewit's* Wives, at the very time when *Blewitt* was under Transportation; how many others he may have, we know not; but this we are assur'd, that one of them now is, or was, within a few Days past, a Prisoner in one of the Spunging Houses in *Wood-street*.

THOMAS Berry was descended of very mean Parents; all that is known of his Original, is, that his Mother was a common Begger, who gave him no Education, but suffer'd him from a Boy to lye Pilfering and Filching in the Streets. And being initiated in those dark Misteries from his very Infancy, he grew bold and harden'd in Vice and Wickedness; and by that means, continually herding amongst Thieves, Pick-Pockets, and different Classes of Rogues and Villains, gain'd a general Acquaintance amongst those sorts of People.

HE committed Numbers of little pilfering Thefts, and sometimes some of larger Consequence; but had not always the good Fortune to come off *Scot-Free*, for besides having been in *New-Prison*, *Bridewell*, &c. he had three times been committed to *Newgate*, and was once cast for Transportation; he had however the good Fortune to escape his Deserts at that time, by getting away from the Vessel. But not warn'd by the Danger he had lately been in, he took to his old Course again; and being acquainted with *Burnworth*, *Blewit*, &c. he soon engag'd himself in their Confederacy, and was

was an assisting Instrument in the Murder before-mention'd.

SOON after they had perpetrated this bloody Deed, he to screen himself from Justice fled to *Holland*, along with *Dickenson* and *Blewitt*; but by the Vigilance of *Mr. Finch* was apprehended with *Dickenson* at the *Brill*, on board a Ship, and carry'd back to *Rotterdam*, where they were put into the *Stadt-House* to their old Friend *Blewet*, and all Three laid in Irons under a sufficient Guard, to prevent their making their Escapes.

Mr. Finch having thus secured these Three Persons, *Blewet*, *Dickenson*, and *Berry*, dispatch'd Advices thereof over to *London*, from whence he receiv'd Directions to apply to the States General for Leave to send them back again, who soon granted his Request, and order'd a Guard of Six Soldiers to attend with them on board a Ship, besides his Majesty's Messengers, who were sent over on purpose for them.

ACCORDINGLY they were put on board the *Delight* Sloop, Capt. *Samuel Taylor*, at the *Brill*, under the said Guard of Soldiers; all strongly Iron'd; when being arriv'd at the *Nore*, they were met by two other Messengers, who assisted in taking charge of them up the River.

NOTWITHSTANDING their being so severely used they were very pleasant and merry on Shipboard, diverting themselves with all the air and gaiety of Expression that could be possible, as much as if their Circumstances had been
of

of so happy a Nature that nothing could have discompos'd them.

SEEING a Press-Gang out upon the River, they exclaim'd against the Watermen who endeavour'd to shun them, and call'd out to the Lieutenant, insolently daring him to come and press them for his Majesty's Service.

WHEN they arrived at the *Tower*, they were put into a Boat, with the Messengers attending them, and three Boats to guard them; to wit, one on each Side, and one in the Rear, and in each Boat a Corporal and a File of Musqueteers, who attended them all the way up to *Westminster*.

BEING arrived there, they had a long Examination before Mr. Justice *Chalk*, and Mr. Justice *Blackerby*; after which they were all Three put into a Coach together, and being conducted by a Party of the Foot-Guards, were that Evening brought down to *Newgate*, attended by a numerous Crowd of Spectators, who testify'd their Joy by their loud and repeated Huzza's and Acclamations.

As soon as they arriv'd at *Newgate* they were conducted into a proper Apartment, welcom'd in the usual Manner, and accommodated with all Necessaries proper and customary to Gentlemen of their Profession.

AFTER which they had the Honour of being conducted up Stairs to their old Friend *Edward Burnworth*, who having congratulated them on their safe Arrival, and they condoled with him on his Confinement, they took their
Places

Places near him, and had the conveniency of the same Apartment, and shackled in the like manner.

THEY did not appear to shew the least sign of Contrition or Remorse for what they had done, on the contrary they spent their Time with all the Indifference imaginable.

GREAT Numbers of People had the Curiosity to come to *Newgate* to see them, and *Blewit* upon all Occasions made use of every Opportunity to excite their Charity, alledging they had been robb'd of every thing when they were seiz'd; *Burnworth* with an air of Indifference reply'd, D—mn this *Blewit*, because he has got a long Wig and a ruffled Shirt, he takes the liberty to talk more than any of us.

BEING exhorted to apply the little Time they had had to live in preparing themselves for another World, *Burnworth* reply'd, If they had any inclination to think of a future State, 'twas impossible in their Condition, so many Persons as were admitted to come to view them in their present Circumstances must needs divert any good Thoughts; but their Minds were wholly taken up with consulting the most likely means to make their Escapes, and extricate themselves from the Bolts and Shackles they were clogg'd and incumber'd with.

AND indeed all their Actions shew'd their Thoughts were bent only on their Enlargement; and that they were altogether unmindful of
Death,

Death, or at least careless of the future Consequences thereof.

WE shall here leave these Four Malefactors confin'd in the Condemn'd Hold, loaded with Irons, and stapel'd down to the Floor, whilst we make some enquiry into the remainder of their Conferts.

UPON the publishing of the Proclamation before-mention'd, *Marjoram*, alias *Huggadie*, who had served his Apprenticeship to an *Ivory Turner*, in *Flower-de-Luce-Court* in *Fetter-Lane*, having surrendered himself, gave Information of *John Legee*, one of their Confederates, who was an Apprentice to a *Cabinetmaker* in *Jewin-street*, where he had serv'd six Years of his Time, who was taken the next Day, and after an Examination before the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, was committed to *Newgate*, (but not confin'd in the Condemn'd Hold with the others) He had not been long initiated into this Knot of Robbers before he assisted in perpetrating this barbarous Fact for which he suffered.

THERE now remain'd only *John Higgs*, and *John Wilson* at liberty, the first of which being a *Watch-Movement-maker* in *Red-Cross-street*, and having some time used the Sea, Information was given to Mr. *De la Fay* thro' the means of an intercepted Letter from his Brother *Thomas*, a Chip of the same Block, which fell into the Hands of one *Arthur*, a Watchman of *St. Sepulchres* Parish, that he had enter'd himself as a Sailor on board the *Monmouth*

Monmouth Man of War at *Portsmouth*; Orders were given, and Messengers sent down to apprehend him there, which was done accordingly; and he being brought to Town, was after Examination committed to *Newgate* to his Companion *Legee*, where he continued until a *Habeus Corpus* was brought to remove them all down to *Kingston* in *Surry*.

ACCORDINGLY on *Wednesday* the 30th of *March* last, they, viz. *Burnworth*, *Blewitt*, *Berry*, and *Dickenson*, were loosed from their Fastenings in the Condemn'd Hold, and with *Legee* and *Higgs* were put into a Waggon, being all hand-cuff'd and chain'd together therein; to be carry'd down to *Kingston*, under a Guard of the Duke of *Bolton's* Horse.

THEY were very Merry when they came out of *Newgate*, charging the Guard to take care that no Misfortune happen'd to them, and call'd upon the numerous Crowds of Spectators, both at their getting into the Waggon; and afterwards, as they pass'd along the Road to shew the Respect they bore them by Hallowing, and to pay them the Compliments due to Gentlemen of their Profession, and call'd for several Bottles of Wine that they might drink to their good Journey.

As they pass'd along the Road they endeavour'd to shew themselves very Merry and Pleasant by their facetious Discourse to the Spectators; and frequently threw Money amongst the People who follow'd them, diverting themselves with seeing the others strive for

it; and particularly *Blewitt* having thrown out some Half-pence amongst the Mob, a little Boy, who was present, pick'd up one of them, and calling out to *Blewitt*, told him, that as sure as he, the said *Blewitt*, would be condemn'd at *Kingston*, so sure would he have his Name engrav'd thereon; whereupon *Blewitt* took a Shilling out of his Pocket, and gave it the Boy; telling him, there was something towards defraying the charge of Engraving; and bad him be as good as his Word; which the Boy promis'd he would.

IN this manner they were conducted to *Kingston*, where they arriv'd about eleven or twelve a-Clock, and were all six confin'd in the *Stock-House*.

THE same Day the Lord Chief Justice *Raymond* and Mr. Justice *Denton* arriv'd in that Town to hold the Assizes of *Nisi Prius*, Oyer and *Terminer*, and *Goal Delivery*, &c. for the said County of *Surry*.

THE same Day the Commissions for holding the Assizes were open'd and read; the next Day being the 31st of *March*, their Lordships, together with the *Grand-Jury*, &c. went to Church, as usual, and heard a Sermon suitable to the Occasion. When the Prisoners were arraign'd; all of which pleaded not Guilty, except *Burnworth*, who refus'd to plead, unless some Effects, which he pretended had been taken from him, were restor'd; and he persisting in such Resolutions his Thumbs were ty'd and strain'd, as usual in such Cases; and he
still

still continuing Obstinate, the Court pass'd the following Sentence upon him.

YOU shall go to the Place from whence you came; and there being strip'd naked, and laid flat upon your naked Back on the Floor, with a Napkin about your middle to hide your privy Members, and a Cloth on your Face; then the Press is to be laid upon you, with as much weight as, or rather more than you can bear; you are to have three Morcels of Barley Bread in twenty four Hours draught a of Water from the next Puddle near the Goal, but not running Water; the second Day two Morcels and the same Water, with an increase of Weight, and so to the third Day until you expire.

THIS Sentence thus pass'd upon him, and he still continuing Contumacious, was carry'd down to the Stock-House, and the Press laid upon him; wherein he continued for the space of one Hour and three Minutes under a Weight of 300 threeQuarters and twoPounds. Whilst he continued under the Press he endeavour'd to beat his Brains out against the Floor.

DURING which time the High-Sheriff himself was present, and frequently exhorted him to plead to the Indictment, which at last he consented to do; and being brought up to Court, after a Tryal which lasted from eight in the Morning until one in the Afternoon, on the first Day of April they were all 6 found guilty of the Indictment; and being remanded back to the Stock-House were all chain'd and stapled down to the Floor.

WHILST they were under Conviction, the Terrors of Death did not make any impression upon them; they diverted themselves with repeating Jest and Stories of various Natures, particularly of the manner of their Escapes before out of the Hands of Justice, and the Robberies and Offences they had committed; and it being propos'd for the Satisfaction of the World for them to leave the Particulars of the several Robberies by them committed, *Burnworth* replied, that were he to relate all the Robberies by him committed, a hundred Sheets of Paper wrote as close as could be would not contain them.

NOTWITHSTANDING what had been alledg'd by *Higgs* of his forsaking his Companions in the Fields, it appear'd by other Evidence, that he follow'd his Companions to *Ball's* House, and was seen hovering about the Door during the time the Murder was committed, with a Pistol in his Hand.

BURNWORTH after Conviction diverted himself with drawing his Picture in several Forms (one of which, as he lay in the Press, the Copy whereof, drawn with his own Hand, is in the Frontispiece of this Book) he distributed to such Persons as came to see him.

IN their Conversation they were pleasant and agreeable, shewing no concern at their approaching Fate. On *Monday* the fourth Day of *April* they received Sentence of Death. Mr. Justice *Denton* made a very pathetick Speech to them, acquainting them of the heinousness of their Crimes, and the necessity of making Examples of
Justice

Justice of the Committers of such Crimes as they perpetrated. They beg'd the Court to indulge them with the Liberty of seeing their Friends, which was granted; and being remanded back again to Prison, their Thoughts were then wholly bent on making their Escapes; for which Purpose they had small Files, which were conceal'd in the Waistbands of their Breeches; and *Blewitt* found means to convey a Letter to an Acquaintance, who was to supply them with Saws, Pistols, &c. and some Opium which they design'd to give the Keepers; *Blewitt's* Brother coming to them was over-heard to say he had forgot the Opium, which occasion'd a Suspicion amongst the Keepers; and *Burnworth's* Mother coming to him, the Keepers searching her, found upon her several Saws, Pistols, and other Implements to assist 'em in making their Escapes; upon which she was seiz'd, and lies now confin'd in the said Prison for the same. There was also found upon them a large clasp Knife, with which, if they could not have effected their Escape otherwise they intended to have murder'd the Persons who watch'd 'em, and Mr. *Elliot* the Turnkey; but being discover'd they gave away their small Files to the Guard who attended them.

HAD they succeeded in this Attempt, their Design was to have set Fire to a large Stack of Bavins adjoyning to the Prison, and to two or three other Places in the Town, that whilst the Inhabitants had been busied in quenching the same,

same, they might have had time to have made their Escapes.

THE next Day being *Tuesday*, *Burnworth* call'd to one of the Guard who attended them, and merrily told him, if he did not take care to see his Body brought back after his Execution, that he might be decently buried, he would meet him in a dark Entry and pull his Nose off; so thoughtless was he of his approaching Fate.

ABOUT ten of the Clock, on *Wednesday* Morning, they were all six (together with *Richard Blackburn* condemn'd for Robbing on the Highway) put into a Cart, attended by a Company of Foot Soldiers to *Kingston* Gallows. In their way thither, their Countenance and Behaviour was much more settled and compos'd than before; they shew'd an Air of Seriousness and Devoutness; and *Blewitt* seeing one *Mr. Warwick* amongst the Spectators, desired to stop that he might speak to him, which being granted, he, on his Knees, ask'd Pardon of *Mr. Warwick* for an attempt he had once made upon his Life, by presenting a Pistol at him, upon a Suspicion that *Mr. Warwick*, suspecting what he was, had given Information against him formerly. Being arriv'd at the fatal Tree, they were all six (together with *Blackburn*) ty'd up. *Blewitt* and *Dickenson* were the most Devout and Serious, and pray'd with great Earnestness, desiring their Example might be a Warning to all young Men: And *Blewitt* desired the Spectators not to reflect on his Mother upon his account; for that she had often with
Tears

Tears, on her Knees, requested him to forsake his wicked Life, which he confess'd to have follow'd for sixteen Years past; and said his first Fact was stealing a Silver Spoon in the *Old Baily*. He had given his Cloaths to his Mother but being inform'd he was to be hung in Chains, he desired his Brother that his Mother might return them, to prevent his being hung up in his Shirt. *Blewitt* not only nam'd the *Penitential Psalm* at the Place of Execution, but repeated the Words of it to the other Criminals, and set the Tune to it.

DICKENSON said he had serv'd for some time as a Foot Soldier, under his Father, who had been a Lieutenant, and not a Major, as he was commonly call'd.

BLEWIT, *Dickenson*, and *Berry*, had provided Coffins, not expecting to be hung in Chains. *Blewitt* desired the Executioner to tie him up in the manner that he might be soonest out of Pain; after which they all fix mutual kifs'd each other; and after some private Ejaculations, the Cart drew off. And *Dickenson* was observ'd to die very hard, after he had hung about two Minutes, the Agonies of Death being strong upon him, he kick'd off one of his Shoes and loosen'd the other.

As to *Blackburn* who was executed with them for robbing on the Highway, we shall only say it was the Person who swore against his Master, *Mr. Huntridge*, some time since; he was grossly Ignorant and Illiterate, and behav'd himself very stupidly; he indeed acknowledged

ledged he had been a common Robber for several Years past, and very much infested the *Kingston Road*, especially near the Place where he suffered.

AFTER they had hung the usual time they were cut down; *Blackburn's Body* was carry'd off in a Coach by the Surgeons; the Bodies of the other Six were brought in a Waggon to the New Goal in *Southwark*, where they were put into Irons. *Burnworth* and *Blewit* were hung up in *St. George's Fields*, near the Place where the Fact was committed; *Dickenson* and *Berry* were hung upon *Kennington-Common*; but by Leave from the Government the Body of *Dickenson* (in regard to his Father's Services in the Army, who lost his Life at the Siege of *Air* in *Flanders*, where he behav'd Gallantly) was taken down, after hanging one Day, and delivered to his Friends to be interr'd; and *Legee* and *Higgs* were hung in Chains on *Putney-Common*.

F I N I S.



